Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Liedia de Bulsan

# Syllabus
# Course description

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| **Course title** | Regional Development and Sustainability |
| **Course code** | 31032 |
| **Scientific sector** | ECON-01/A and ECON-04/A |
| **Degree** | Master in Tourism Management |
| **Semester and academic year** | 1st and 2nd Semester 2025/2026 |
| **Year** | 1st study year |
| **Credits** | 12 |
| **Modular** | YES |

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| **Total lecturing hours** | 72<br>Module 1: 36 Lecturing hours<br>dr. Nicola Campigotto<br><br>Module 2: 36 Lecturing hours<br>Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Gsottbauer<br><br>Course responsible: Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Gsottbauer |
| **Total lab hours** | 12 |
| **Total exercise hours** | - |
| **Attendance** | suggested, but not required |
| **Prerequisites** | not foreseen |
| **Course page** | Course Offering - Enrolled from 2025 / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano |

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| **Specific educational objectives** | The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics.<br><br>**Module 1:**<br>This course provides an applied introduction to modern regional economics. It focuses on the determinants of the attractiveness of a territory and will be divided into two parts. An initial part will deal with classical regional economics, while a second part will deal with environmental economics. The first part will introduce students to the determinants of firms' and people's location decisions as well as on the principles of urban economics. It will look at the role of infrastructures and at place-based policies. The second part will provide for core concepts of environmental economics with special emphasis on policy. To this purpose, it will start with the economic theory of environmental policy. Based on the theory of externalities, it will analyze instruments for environmental policy from an economic point-of-view. It will then introduce topics of behavioral environmental economics. |

The course is aimed at understanding how formal models can be used to analyze real-world situations. Theoretical analyses are complemented with empirical evidence, case studies, and discussions of implications for environmental policies.

Students acquire a broad knowledge in the field of regional and environmental economics and develop an economic intuition by means of examples and applications. More precisely, they will be provided with:

- the toolkit to independently deepen their knowledge in regional and environmental economics and understand advanced research;
- the ability to apply regional and environmental economic theory in research and practice.

Students will understand, among others, how to formulate and solve problems in regional and environmental economics using advanced economic theory. To address these questions adequately, students learn to apply mathematical tools and game theory, such as optimization methods. Most importantly, students will not only be able to solve these models analytically, but also understand the intuition at work.

**Module 2:**
This course on sustainable transport and behavior change provides a comprehensive exploration of the behavioral foundations that underlie transportation systems and policies. Students will be introduced to a wide range of topics, from the utilization of new technology and measurement instruments to sense travel behavior, to the integration of behavioral science in understanding travel patterns.

The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach by introducing various frameworks for explaining and changing travel behavior. By contrasting classic economic theory with behavioral economics and social psychology, students will gain a holistic understanding of the factors influencing travel behavior. The course also introduces a spectrum of public policy instruments for positively influencing behavior, ranging from information and changing perceptions to pricing strategies such as road pricing. Ultimately, the course will provide students with methodological tools to critically evaluate the impact of policy interventions on behaviour through rigorous experimental methods.

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| | Through critical engagement with various models of human behavior and decision-making, students will develop expertise in analytical thinking, enabling them to comprehend individual travel behavior.<br>The emphasis on impact evaluation an experimental research methods will cultivate problem-solving skills, supporting students to address policy challenges in the realm of sustainable transportation. |

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| **Module 1** | Regional Economics and Development |
| **Lecturer 36h**<br>**Exe 18h** | dr. Nicola Campigotto<br>Mail: nicola.campigotto@unibz.it<br>Campus Bruneck- Brunico, 1st Floor, 1.09, Faculty of Economics and Management<br>Nicola Campigotto / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano |
| **Scientific sector of the lecturer** | SECS-P/02 |
| **Teaching language** | English |
| **Office hours** | Timetables / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano |
| **Lecturing assistant** | - / |
| **List of topics covered** | We will cover these topics:<br>- Economics and the environment<br>- Theory of externalities<br>- Environmental policy<br>- Behavioral insights in climate protection, resource management, and ecosystem services<br>- Introduction to regional economics: basic concepts<br>- Location decisions and market imperfections: determinants of consumers' and firms' and location decisions, spatial competition<br>- Infrastructure as regional competitive advantage and regional disparities: toward policy aspectsPlace-based policies and spatial disparities |
| **Teaching format** | Lectures and exercises |

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| **Module 2** | Sustainable Mobility |
| **Lecturer** | Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Gsottbauer, Elisabeth.Gsottbauer@unibz.it, Campus Bruneck/Brunico, NOI Techpark 3rd Floor, Office 3.22, Faculty of Economics and Management<br>Elisabeth Gsottbauer / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano |
| **Scientific sector of the lecturer** | SECS-P/02 / SECS-P/06 |
| **Teaching language** | English |
| **Office hours** | Timetables / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano |
| **Lecturing assistant** | / |

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| **List of topics covered** | - General exploration of sustainability issues in transportation, addressing broader concerns related to environmental impact.<br>- Integration of behavioral science to understand and analyze travel patterns.<br>- Explore a spectrum of traditional and innovative policy instruments in transportation management, including classic approaches and emerging tools such as nudging.<br>- Develop an understanding of experimental evaluation frameworks essential for assessing the impact of transport policy instruments. |
| **Teaching format** | Lectures and exercises |

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| **Learning outcomes** | **Knowledge and understanding**<br>M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Students study analytical and quantitative tools to acquire a broad knowledge in regional and environmental economics. They will not only be able to solve the presented models mathematically, but also to understand the intuition at work by means of examples and applications.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Students gain an overview of sustainability concepts as well as of technological, economic, and political factors relevant to mobility services. Students will understand the inter-relatedness and mutual influence of interests and limitations.<br><br>**Applying knowledge and understanding**<br>M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Students acquire the toolkit to independently deepen their knowledge in the field of regional and environmental economics. They will develop the ability to understand more advanced research and apply the acquired knowledge to real-word situations.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Students will acquire skills in using analytical tools to assess the performance and sustainability of transportation networks. Students will be enabled to apply these analytical skills to understand the vested interests involved in further developing mobility services and transportation networks.<br><br>**Making judgments**<br>M1: Regional Economics and Development: |

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| | The field of regional and environmental economics has many real-world applications. This course promotes strategic, analytic and, critical thinking to understand concrete situations and develop policy recommendations.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Students have a natural access to concepts of mobility, because they are part of their everyday life. Using knowledge from this course, students will be able to judge what developments best support a durable sustainable development of the mobility sector in tourism applications.<br><br>**Communication skills**<br>M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Regional and environmental theories are formulated using formal models. However, students should not only be able to solve these models mathematically, but also state the intuition in words. Graduates will be able to exchange information, ideas, and solutions in both models and words.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Students will be able to communicate their findings and judgements orally and in writing, in a convincing and compelling way.<br><br>**Learning skills**<br>M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>The focus on model-building enables students to independently deepen their knowledge in the field of regional and environmental economics. Graduates will be able to understand more advanced research and teach themselves concepts which are not dealt with in this course. Furthermore, they will be able to apply theory and the underlying intuition at work to many real-word applications.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Students will deepen their knowledge beyond what is discussed in class with select scientific reading assignments alongside the lectures. They thus acquire not only an understanding of the topics covered, but also the ability to self-teach themselves concepts and theories by way of scientific literature. |

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| **Assessment** | M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Grading is 100% based on a final written exam. Students are required to answer open questions.. Assessment is the same for both attending and non-attending students.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility: |

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| | Attending students:<br>Grading is based on a final exam containing open questions which makes up 60%. Students in addition will present a real-life case assignment which makes up for 40% of the final grade. The case study report needs to be handed in 3 weeks before the written exam, at the latest.<br><br>Non-attending students:<br>Non attending students will be assessed through a final exam test (100%) that covers all course materials. |
| **Assessment language** | English |
| **Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks** | M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Clarity of answers and ability to address case studies and policy problems.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Clarity of answers and problem solving capacity |

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| **Required readings** | M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>- Capello, R: Regional Economics, Routledge, 2015<br>- Sterner, T., & Coria, J. (2013). Policy instruments for environmental and natural resource management. Routledge.<br>- Perman, R. (2003). Natural resource and environmental economics. Pearson Education.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>- Hutton, B. (2013). Planning sustainable transport. Routledge.<br>- Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R.Sunstein. Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth, and happiness. Yale University Press, 2008 |
| **Supplementary readings** | M1: Regional Economics and Development:<br>Mathematics<br>- Simon, C. & L. Blume. Mathematics for Economists. WW Norton & Co., 2014.<br><br>Microeconomic theory<br>- Varian, H. Intermediate Microeconomics. A Modern Approach. Ninth edition, WW Norton & Co., 2014.<br><br>M2: Sustainable Mobility:<br>Sterner, T., & Coria, J. (2013). Policy instruments for environmental and natural resource management. Routledge. |